

THE GURNET BRIDGE.

To the Editor of The Herald:

As one conversant on the subject from the time of its inception, I should like to answer your editorial of yesterday on what you styled the "Long Bridge in Duxbury."

Its official name is the "Gurnet bridge," because it connects the Gurnet settlement to the town of Plymouth, to which it belongs. This settlement consists of a collection of summer houses and the United States property of two forts, two lighthouses and a life saving station. A county road meets the bridge on the mainland, shortening the distance some six miles from Plymouth. The bridge also connects a large settlement at Green Harbor with the town of Duxbury.

The project was started by a company called the Gurnet Bridge Company, which owned a part of the beach that came within the town of Duxbury. This company petitioned the county commissioners to lay out this bridge as a county affair, which they finally did, assessing \$10,000 on the bridge company, \$10,000 on Duxbury, and paying the balance themselves, amounting to some \$14,000, thus committing the county to the project, and in their adjudication declared that the bridge was required for the "common convenience and necessity."

An act was passed by the Legislature allowing the construction of the bridge without provision as to its maintenance. As an engineer I advocated, from the first, that the maintenance should be upon the county, it being the largest contributor, and the bridge being built by them and under their superintendence.

The great storm of November, 1898, injured the beach as a building place, and prevented the land company from erecting more cottages there, but the beach is still the finest one in Plymouth county, and much resorted to by its inhabitants, including people from the interior who own much property at its Marshfield end, and the tendency of the times is to provide such places of recreation at the public expense.

The committee on counties has already recommended that the maintenance be placed upon the county, after hearing the facts and arguments.

It is true that some of the people of the city of Brockton oppose this, alleging that, having more wealth, they pay a larger proportion of the tax than other parts of the county of the same area, ignoring the fact that the county has been called upon from time to time to adorn and beautify that city, from which the larger portion of the county derive no benefit.

LAURENCE BRADFORD.

Millbrook, March 31, 1904.